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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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| COUNTRY | Poland | REPORT NO. | <input type="text"/> | 25X1 |
| SUBJECT | Polish Reactions to the Escape of the Jet Pilots | DATE DISTR. | 4 September 1953 | |
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25X1 1. Neither the Polish press nor the Polish radio have mentioned the escape of the two Polish aviators. and the militia endeavor unsuccessfully to suppress all rumors concerning the escapes. Handwritten pamphlets of unknown authorship were circulated, especially in the cinemas, bearing slogans such as my wzniesy za toba" we are for you") and "presz i sowiecka okupacja, chcemy Polski wolnej" ("out with the Soviet occupation, we want a free Poland"). There is still cooperative freedom in the areas surrounding the cinemas, since the Party and the regime do their utmost to get the Polish populace to see showings of Soviet films. Inasmuch as Soviet films have already been boycotted to a large extent, the UB does not dare to institute a body search of movie-goers for fear that in the future no Poles will attend the movies.

25X1 2. A rumor is being circulated in Warsaw, Katowice, and Krakow to the effect that the youth of Poland are awaiting the "numer lotniskowy" (the next aviation number), or, in other words, the announcement of the escape of yet another flier from Poland. young Poles conjecture about this eventuality in the movies, the coffee houses, and on the streets.

25X1 3. a special UB commission was sent from Warsaw to Stryk (Stapp) to conduct an inquiry As a result of the inquiry, about six or eight men, including three non-commissioned officers, were arrested, and about 20 young Polish Air Force officers were transferred to locations far removed from the coastal areas and from the western frontier. Some of the suspects were guiltless, but since they cannot ever hope to free themselves of suspicion in the eyes of the regime, they too may seek to escape. this fact further confirms the general impression that the UB commission acted unfairly and erroneously.

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4. [] the Soviet Air Force, supplied with MIG-15's, is dispersed in a close network along the Polish coast, the Polish-German frontier and the Polish-Czechoslovak frontier, and that in a matter of seconds, a number of planes, and if necessary, several hundred, can be dispatched from any/ of the air bases, in any direction whatsoever, in pursuit of an escaping flier. [] the commander of any air force unit, on learning that a flier is about to escape, is empowered to give an order to shoot him down, but only while the escape is over Polish territory. Once he is outside Polish territory, the commander must obtain an order for pursuit from the Air Force Command at Warsaw, an order which, naturally, will be forthcoming. However, the few minutes consumed in radio communications between an air force unit and the Air Force Command may well be sufficient for a fleeing pilot to have reached safe haven.

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